

Town of North Reading  
**Trash and Recycling FAQs**  
June 27, 2013

Effective July 1, 2013, each household in North Reading will be allowed up to three 35 gallon bags or barrels of trash per week for curbside pickup. This is a reduction in the current four 30 gallon bags or barrels. Unlimited weekly curbside recycling will continue.

**Why is this change being made?** This change is being made to increase the percentage of solid waste being recycled and to reduce the tons of solid waste being disposed of as trash. Materials such as plastics, glass, metals and paper can be recycled and are banned from disposal at landfills or by incineration in Massachusetts. Limiting the amount of trash encourages people to increase recycling.

**What is the benefit of this change?** North Reading pays a disposal fee for every ton of trash collected, but there is no tonnage charge for recycled materials. Limiting the tonnage disposed of as trash reduces costs.

**What if I choose not to recycle, or if I exceed the limit on trash barrels?** Recyclable materials are banned from being disposed of as trash and must be recycled. For the first two weeks under the new limit, you will receive a notice explaining any violations, but the trash will still be collected. After the two week grace period, you will receive a notice explaining the violation, **and the excess trash will not be collected.**

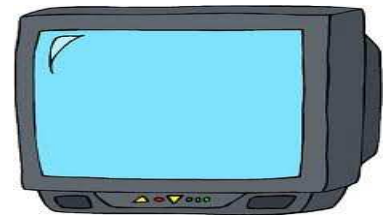
**I have not recycled before; do I need to separate my recycling?** You only need to separate your paper from your other recyclable items. Place bundled paper and cardboard on top of or beside your recycling bin, or use one bin for loose paper/cardboard and another for plastic, glass and metal cans.



**How do I obtain additional recycling bins?** Bins are available for \$7 each at Town Hall. You can also turn one of your trash barrels into a recycling bin for cans, plastic and glass by getting a free **RECYCLING** sticker at Town Hall.

**Can I still put out one large item per week?** Yes, one large or bulky item – such as a sofa or mattress – may be disposed of each week. You may dispose of up to four rolls of carpet – cut to 3-foot lengths and rolled and tied – as the one large item per week. This large item does not count toward your barrel limit. **No construction debris is accepted. Residents must hire a private hauler for disposal.**

**What about disposal of appliances and televisions or computer monitors?** These items are also banned from being disposed of as solid waste. Call JRM at (800) 323-4285 to schedule a pickup. Note that there is a fee to dispose of (some of) these items, paid to JRM directly. Appliances - \$20.00 each; Appliances containing CFCs - \$35.00; Televisions & Computer Monitors – No charge to residents.



**I live at a condominium in North Reading. Can I use the Town's curbside service to recycle?** No. North Reading's solid waste program – both trash and recycling – is a fee based program, where the entire cost of the program is paid for through the trash fee. Businesses and residents of condominiums or apartments are not charged this fee and are not eligible to recycle through the Town's program. *Contact your condo association to ask about recycling opportunities.*



**As a homeowner, how do I properly dispose of paints, oils and other hazardous materials?** North Reading holds two annual events to assist in the disposal of hazardous or other materials that require special handling. The **Special Collection Day**, held in the spring, allows residents to bring items including fluorescent lamps, car batteries, propane tanks, scrap metal and tires to the DPW complex for disposal. The **Household Hazardous Waste Day**, held in September, allows residents to bring small quantities of household hazardous wastes to the DPW complex for disposal. Please visit the Town's web site ([www.northreadingma.gov](http://www.northreadingma.gov)) for more information.

**How can I dispose of yard waste and scrap metal?** The Compost Center at the DPW complex, 166 Chestnut Street is open **on Saturdays only** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is open on the first Saturday in April through the last Saturday in November. Yard waste (grass & leaves only; **no brush**) must be delivered loose or in biodegradable bags. No plastic bags. Scrap metal may be placed in the waste metal container at the DPW complex.

**NOTE-** Effective July 1, 2013 the town will be expanding curbside yard waste pickup from twice per year to four times per year, twice in the fall and twice in the spring. This is in addition to the Compost Center drop off. Additionally, an annual curbside metal collection event will be held once per year in addition to the scrap metal drop off at the DPW complex. Annual events are planned for paper shredding and rigid plastic disposal (plastic chairs, pails, children outdoor toys, etc.).

**What is the proper way to dispose of used motor oil?** The DPW collects used motor oil on the last Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 12 noon from April to November at the DPW complex.

**What about disposing of Christmas Trees?** Christmas Trees are picked up curbside on a Saturday special collection day in January & are composted. Visit the North Reading web site for details.

**My trash was missed – what do I do?** Call JRM at (800) 323-4285 to report that your trash or recycling was not picked up.